

IPPS 3 – 5 March 2015

# A year in New Zealand

My observations and opinions

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# Definition - Green fingers

The condition that arises from handling large sums of money at your local Garden Centre.



Focus on the following:

Challenges

Productivity

Media

Tissue Culture

New Varieties

Speciality lines



# Challenges:

- Climate
- Population
- Labour Cost
- Distances
- Legal



# Climate



# Population & Labour cost

## New Zealand:

4.5 million people

Minimum Wage NZ\$ 14.25/h  
(R125.68/h = labour cost is  
9.4 x higher in NZ)

Unemployment: 5.6%

## South Africa:

54 million people (x 12)

Minimum wage R13.37/h  
(NZ\$ 1.52/h)

Unemployment 24.3%

# Distances

## New Zealand:

268 021 km<sup>2</sup>

N to S about 1900km

Kaitaia to Wellington 962km

Picton to Invercargill 897km

## South Africa:

1.22 mil km<sup>2</sup> (4.5 times larger)

N to S about 1900km

Musina to CT 1916km

Dbn to CT 1592 – 1705km



# Legal

- Pollution
- Recycling
- Waste removal
- Water quality
- Alien species



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# Productivity

Pride in the profession

Mechanisation

Irrigation

Crop planning / scheduling

Daily targets / output







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# Media

- Daltons – custom blends
- Sand
- Pumice
- Peat
- Coco coir
- Bark compost (P. radiata)
- Fertilizer & Wetting agents
- NZ\$ 87 to \$110/m<sup>3</sup>(2010)



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That boring, eh...?



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Living Fashion

Living Fashion

Living Fashion

Living Fashion

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# Conclusion

- Depending on who you are and who you compare yourself with, you are either good or have a long way to go.
- Travel as often & as far and wide as you can.
- Network – IPPS.
- Despite challenges we face in SA, it is an exciting industry to be in.

Thank you!











